THE UNDERWOOD FAMILIES

OF MASSACHUSETTS.

A BRIEF NOTICE OF THE UNDERWOOD FAMILI OF MASSACHUSETTS.

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THE Underwood Family in America, as represented at prese is descended from the following lines :*

1. Joseph Underwood, who settled in Hingham, Mass., 1637, with his brother Thomas, and removed to Watertown, Mas in 1645. The latter left no descendants.

2. William Underwood, of Concord, Mass.; removed Chelmsford, Mass., in 1652.

3. Henry Underwood, who settled in or near Newport, R. about 1665.

4. William Thomas Underwood, who settled in Virgini about the middle of the seventeenth century.

5. Alexander Underwood, who settled in Maryland about th mindle of the seventeenth century.

6. Recent Immigrations, dating mostly since the Revolution.

To the first family belong Gen. Adin B. Underwood of Boston, and Francis H. Underwood, author, of the same place. To the second belonged the late Judge John C. Underwood of Virginia. To the third belongs Benjamin F. Underwood, the free-thinker of Boston. To the fourth belong the late U. S. Senator Joseph R. Underwood of Kentucky, Representatives Warner L. Underwood of Kentucky and John W. H. Underwood of Georgia, and others connected with political life in the two states mentioned.

It is the purpose of this paper to trace the history of the Massachusetts families only, including the Watertown and Chelmsford branches.

I. THE WATERTOWN BRANCH.

1. Joseph[1] Underwood, of Hingham, 1637, was admitted freeman at Watertown, 1645; married (1) Mary ——, who d. 13 Feb. 1658, and he married (2) Mary How, of Dorchester, 29 April, 1665.† On the files of the court is a paper relating to his estate, naming his children Joseph, Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, Thomas and Martha,

* There is also a "North Carolina Branch," claimed by some, but this is believed to be an offshoot from 5. Other early New England Underwoods, as Martin and Peter, left no descendants.

† Barry says 1662.

though Hudson says they are probably not mentioned in order of age. Savage states that Thomas was born 11 October, 1658, but this is probably a mistake, as *his* son Thomas was married in 1679, leaving a family at his death in 1691!

It will be impossible then at present to arrange the children in order of age, but I venture the following as seeming most probable:

i. Thomas.
ii. Elizabeth, m. 13 Sept. 1693, William Bull, as his second wife. No issue.
iii. Mary, m. 18 May, 1670, Isaac Onge, or Ong.
iv. Martha.
v. Sarah.
3. vi. Joseph, b. 1650.
vii. Hannah, m. 14 Oct. 1680, John Gibson, by whom she had *Silence*, b. 17 Dec. 1680, and *Mary*, b. 27 July, 1682.

It seems quite probable that Joseph Underwood was originally from London, England. Bond says he is nearly if not exactly the same age as that Joseph U. who embarked at London, 1635, for Virginia. Stronger evidence, however, exists in the form of a letter from Robert Atkyn of England to John Leverett of Boston, dated 18 March, 1672, which says: "There is one Mr. Thomas Underwood sometimes wollen drap^{r} in London who I think lives in Boston and hes beene there 10 or 12 yeares, that marryed old Mr. Tilson's daughter one of them, but she is dead and since he went to New England has marryed again," etc.* This Thomas Underwood is no doubt the same Thomas that was a brother of 1 Joseph. Thomas settled in Hingham, 1637, and was admitted freeman the same year; was representative, 1637 and 1648; removed to Watertown and was there selectman, 1635. His will, dated 15 February, 1668, left his real estate to his wife *Magdalen* for life, and afterwards to Thomas, son of his brother Joseph, *who was then living with him.* He also left legacies to his brother Joseph and to his nephew and nieces, Joseph, Mary, Martha, Hannah, Elizabeth and Sarah. It is thus evident that he left no descendants.

Joseph Underwood died 17 February, 1677, aged 62.

2. Thomas^{2} Underwood (*Joseph*^{1}), of Watertown, married Magdalen —— as her second husband. His will, dated 19 July, 1679, proved 5 Oct. 1680, mentions only one child:

4. i. Thomas.†

It is barely possible that 2 Thomas married his uncle's widow, the name Magdalen, as Savage states, being extremely uncommon. In support of such a view it may be stated that (1) Magdalen, wife of the uncle, was a second wife. (2) Magdalen, wife of the nephew, married him as a second husband. (3) The nephew was living with his uncle at the time of the latter's death, and (4) The property of the uncle was willed to Thomas, the nephew, after his wife's death.

3. Joseph^{2} Underwood (*Joseph*^{1}), of Watertown, born 1650, married Elizabeth —— and had:

* Mass. Hist. Coll., 4th Series, vol. ii.

† It seems quite possible that the date assigned by Savage for the birth of 2 Thomas is the date of the birth of his son, viz., 11 Oct. 1658. In this case the speculation above could not be correct.

5. i. JOHN, b. 6 March, 1677.
ii. ELIZABETH, b. 8 May, 1679.
6. iii. JOSEPH, b. 28 May, 1681.
7. iv. JOSHUA, b. 31 Jan. 1683.
8. v. JONATHAN, b. 1685. (?)
vi. MARY, b. 9 May, 1687. (Savage says SARAH.)
vii. HANNAH, bapt. 13 April, 1690; m. 1709, Daniel Richardson, by whom she had 1. *William*, b. 3 Feb. 1711; 2. *Hannah*, b. 25 Dec. 1718; and 3. *Daniel*, b. 26 June, 1721.

Savage makes the statement that the last two were children by a second wife, Mary, but Morse states that Elizabeth, his first wife, was admitted to the church, 1687! As his will, dated 16 February, 1691, proved 7 April, 1691, mentions his wife Elizabeth, it is evident that the statement of Savage is incorrect. The will also mentions the sons John, Joseph, Jonathan, Joshua, and the daughters Mary, Hannah and Elizabeth.

4. THOMAS[3] UNDERWOOD (*Thomas*,[2] *Joseph*[1]), of Cambridge, Mass., married 19 Nov. 1679, Mary Palmer, and had:

i. THOMAS, b. 20 Oct. 1680; probably d. young.
ii. MARY, b. 5 June, 1682.
iii. ELIZABETH, b. 13 Aug. 1684; m. 25 March, 1709, Jonathan Hewes, of Cambridge.
+* iv. JONATHAN, b. 18 Aug. 1686; m. 17 Nov. 1709, Ruth Holland, and settled in Lexington.
v. ABIGAIL, b. 26 March, 1688.
vi. MARTHA, b. 30 June, 1689.
vii. THOMAS, b. 3 June, 1691. Of this line I have no further information.

5. JOHN[3] UNDERWOOD (*Joseph*,[2] *Joseph*[1]), of Charlestown, Mass., born 6 March, 1677; married 19 Nov. 1701, Rebecca Shattuck, and had:

i. JOHN, b. 10 July, 1704. Of this line I have no further information.
ii. REBECCA, b. 22 March, 1707.

He is said by Bond to have had "a reputed son" *Jonathan*, born 7 April, 1714, about which time he removed to Charlestown. It is possible that this Jonathan is the one from Waltham that Bond records as having married, 12 April, 1749, Sarah Parker, of Needham; but of this I am not positive.

6. JOSEPH[3] UNDERWOOD (*Joseph*,[2] *Joseph*[1]), of Lexington, Mass., afterward (1747) of Lincoln, Mass., born 28 May, 1681; married ——, and had:

+ i. JOSEPH, bapt. 3 March, 1723; m. 26 Feb. 1744, Anna Baker, of Waltham, who d. 30 May, 1749, and he m. (2) 4 June, 1750, Eunice Smith, of Lexington. Two of his sons were prominent in the Revolution—*Joseph* (1749–1829) and *Nathan* (1753–1841), the latter a graduate of Harvard and clergyman. He d. at Lincoln, 25 April, 1760.
ii. JOSHUA, bapt. 6 June, 1725; m. 6 June, 1765, Abigail Stone, and had one son *Daniel*, bapt. 24 April, 1771.
iii. ELIJAH, bapt. 5 May, 1728.
+ iv. PETER, bapt. 25 May, 1729; m. Keziah (*Winship*?), by whom he had five children in Charlestown.
v. RUTH, bapt. 4 April, 1731.
+ vi. ISRAEL, bapt. 23 June, 1734. Was in the French and Indian war.
+ vii. MOSES, bapt. 17 Aug. 1735; m. Mary Pierce, of Lincoln, Mass., and settled in that place, where he had eight children.
viii. SUSANNA, bapt. 2 Sept. 1739.

* This mark, the sign of addition, indicates that the compiler has a record of the families of the individuals to whose name it is prefixed.

7. JOSHUA[3] UNDERWOOD (*Joseph*,[2] *Joseph*[1]), of Sherborn, Mass., born 31 Jan. 1683; married 13 Jan. 1707, Mercy Fairbanks (daughter of Eliezer F. of Sherborn) and had:

   i. MERCY, b. 3 April, 1709; m. 1729, Eli Jones, of Sherborn, by whom she had six children.
   ii. JONATHAN, b. 4 Nov. 1711; m. 22 Jan. 1740, Priscilla Bailla, and had one son *John*, b. 1742, and four daughters. He was living in Sudbury, 1755.
   iii. JOSHUA, b. 22 Sept. 1714; d. 17 July, 1731.
   iv. JOSEPH, b. 21 Nov. 1716; m. Jemima Leland, and had at Holliston nine children.* He died 7 June, 1759.
   v. THANKFUL, b. 8 Feb. 1719; m. June 4, 1744, John Hill.
   vi. DAVID, b. May, 1721; d. 7 July, 1742.
   vii. MARY, b. 2 Feb. 1723; m. 26 Jan. 1747, Eleazer Robbins.

8. JONATHAN[3] UNDERWOOD (*Joseph*,[2] *Joseph*[1]). There seems to be nothing on record concerning this line, The fact that the church records of Watertown are a blank from 1709 to 1726, increases the difficulty of tracing. He may have been the father of any of the following, whose position I am as yet unable to determine:

   + i. NEHEMIAH, b. 5 May, 1721; dismissed from the church at Watertown to the church at Sturbridge; m. 5 Feb. 1744, Anna Marcy (daughter of James Marcy, of Woodstock, Ct.), and afterward settled in Woodstock, Ct., where he had seven sons† and three daughters. He d. 20 Oct. 1772.
   + ii. JONAS, b. 1733; m. Naomi (Pike?), and had at Framingham, Mass., eight children, according to Barry.
   iii. JOSHUA, who died at Mendon, Mass., 1743, leaving a wife Hannah.
   iv. JONATHAN, of Weston, Mass., who had by wife Lydia three children at that place.

II. THE CHELMSFORD BRANCH.

1. WILLIAM[1] UNDERWOOD, of Chelmsford, Mass.; removed from Concord, 1652, with about twenty other families from that place and Woburn, to Chelmsford, where he was prominent in town affairs, and served as a town officer. Was admitted to the freeman's oath, 1650. Concerning his early history nothing is known at present, but he is supposed to have come from England prior to 1640. He married Sarah Pellet (?), and had in Concord and Chelmsford:

   i. REMEMBRANCE, b. 25 Feb. 1640; m. 1659, Josiah Richardson, by whom she had eight children.
   ii. SARAH, b. 1642; m. 10 March, 1669, Daniel Blogget.
   iii. PRISCILLA, b. 1647 (?); m. 6 July, 1663, Edward Spalden.
   iv. AQUILLA, b. 1749; d. 17 June, 1657.
   v. REBECCA, b. 6 April, 1650.
   vi. DEBORAH, b. 1653 (?); m. 25 Dec. 1668, Nathaniel Butterfield.
   2. vii. SAMUEL, b. 14 Feb. 1656.‡

   Sarah, wife of William Underwood, died 5 Nov. 1684, and he married (2) Anna Kidder, of Billerica, 17 March, 1685.

2. SAMUEL[2] UNDERWOOD (*William*[1]), of Chelmsford, Mass., had the following sons:

* Among these was David, born 1742, great-grandfather of Gen. A. B. Underwood, of Boston.

† Among these was Daniel, born 1744, great-grandfather of Francis H. Underwood, of Boston; also of the writer.

‡ Some of the dates given above are taken from Savage, and are probably inaccurate. Those of marriages and of the birth of *Samuel* are from records of Chelmsford in the possession of the N. E. Hist. Gen. Soc.

† Anna (Mrs.) Kidder of Cambridge

3. i. Joseph, b. 1681.*
4. ii. Aquilla, b. 1693.

It is possible that there were more children than these two, but records are scanty, and these are all that can be found.

3. Joseph[3] Underwood (*Samuel*,[2] *William*[1]), of Westford, Mass., born 1681; married, 1707, Susannah Parker, and had in Chelmsford and Westford:

i. Joseph, b. 1 March, 1708; d. 4 April, 1745.
ii. Thomas, b. 7 Oct. 1709; d. 20 Oct. 1732.
iii. Mary, b. 28 Oct. 1711; d. 26 Nov. 1803.
iv. Elizabeth, b. 2 Feb. 1714.
v. Jonathan, b. 22 Jan. 1716; d. at Marlboro', N. H.
vi. Amy, b. 16 Oct. 1717; d. 23 May, 1770.
vii. Ruth, b. 20 Jan. 1719; d. 4 Sept. 1775.
viii. Phineas, b. 3 Jan. 1722; d. 24 Sept. 1757, Litchfield, N. H.
ix. Timothy, b. 11 April, 1724; m. 1752, Susannah Bond (?), Litchfield, N. H.
x. Susannah, b. 26 Dec. 1725; d. 26 Dec. 1729.
xi. John, b. 15 Sept. 1727: m. Hannah Wright and had two sons, *Jereme*,† b. 1750, and *John*,‡ b. 1755.
xii. Bethia, b. 27 Sept. 1729.
xiii. James, b. 1 Dec. 1731, Litchfield, N. H.

The father, Joseph U., with his brother Aquilla, were subscribers to the covenant in 1727, when the church at Westford was formed from the church at Chelmsford (the town of Westford having previously formed a part of Chelmsford). The church was organized in 1729. Joseph U. died 19 Jan. 1761.

4. Aquilla[3] Underwood (*Samuel*,[2] *William*[1]), of Westfield (afterward of Sandisfield), married Margaret ——, and had:

i Samuel, b. 1 Feb. 1722. "Rem. to Mich."
ii. Mary, b. 26 March, 1724.
iii. William, b. 1727. Descendants reside in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York.
iv. Parker. Of this line I know nothing.
v. Roger. Of this line I know nothing.
vi. Simon. Some of this branch are now living at Monterey.
vii. Lucy.
viii. Olive.
ix. Margaret.
x. Hannah.

Aquilla Underwood was dismissed from the church in Westford, November, 1741, to join with others forming a church at Litchfield, N. H., whence he probably removed. He was received at the church in Sandisfield, Mass., 26 July, 1761, at which place he died, 29 May, 1767. His wife Margaret died 25 August, 1780, in her 81st year.

Such seem to be the relations of the first four generations of Underwoods in Massachusetts. In this connection it may be stated that the present writer is preparing a complete genealogy of the Watertown branch of the Un-

* It is a singular coincidence that two *Josephs* of distinct branches should have been born the same year. (See Watertown Branch, No. 6.)

† An account of the descendants of Jereme may be found in Cutler's History of Jaffrey, N. H.

‡ An account of the descendants of John may be found in M'Keen's History of Bradford, Vt.

derwood family, and would gratefully receive any information relative to the family, or corrections or additions to the above. Information is specially desired respecting the descendants of (4. iv.) Jonathan; (4. vii.) Thomas; (5. i.) John; (6. iii.) Elijah; (8. iii.) Joshua, and (8. iv.) Jonathan. Also regarding the parentage of the last four recorded under the Watertown branch above.

The writer is indebted to the following published works, which contain more or less extended notices of the early members of the Underwood family:

1. *Barry*, History of Framingham. 2. *Bond*, Family Memorials of Early Settlers of Watertown. 3. *Draper*, History of Spencer. 4. *Freeman*, History of Cape Cod. 5. *Hudson*, History of Lexington. 6. *McKeen*, History of Bradford, Vt. 7. *Morse*, Genealogical Register of Sherborn, etc. 8. *Savage*, Genealogical Dictionary of New England. 9. *Wyman*, Charlestown Genealogies and Estates. 10. *Paige*, History of Cambridge. 11. *Hazen*, History of Billerica. 12. *Cutler*, History of Jaffrey, N. H.; and the published colonial records of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

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